

Dear FCC,

This is in regards to the petition RM-10783 filed by Kiernan K. Holliday, WA6BJH, whereby he asks the FCC to "remove all requirements for knowledge of Morse code" from the Amateur Service rules.

In his petition for rule making Mr. Holliday says the code requirement limits the ability of handicapped individuals to get ham tickets. I disagree with Mr. Hollidays' comments.

People are saying that the Morse code requirement should be done away with because it is an antiquated skill or obsolete, but Morse code is still widely used today not just in the United States but throughout the world.

Morse code is still being widely used in the amateur radio service, the commercial industry, by people who are physically disabled or handicapped as a means of communicating with others. American NASA Astronauts to this day still use Morse code, the U.S. Navy still uses light Morse too. If Morse code is still being utilized by our own government how can it be obsolete.

Mr. Holliday is wrong when he says the code requirement limits the ability of handicapped individuals to get ham tickets. Especially when there are lots of physically disabled people today who are using Morse code as a means of communicating with others some who are non radio amateurs and other who are radio amateurs.

Myself being an ARRL Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner for the past years I've seen people show up to an exam session that were visually and hearing impaired or both. Those individuals were still able to pass any exam element they were administered, why because they studied and prepared for the exams, which is something most people don't want to do these days. Instead people want privileges given to them without them making any sort of effort whatsoever.

The Commission has already encouraged the use of Amateur Radio by reducing the Morse code speed requirement from 20 words per minute to slow 5 words per minute, but now Mr. Holliday wants to do away with the Morse code requirement all together based on what other governments are doing or because of his own assumptions.

The Amateur Service community is not suffering from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators because of the Morse code requirement

as some people claim.

The requirement for new prospective amateur applicants as well as other radio amateurs to demonstrate a Morse code skill for HF access should remain as it is now, and should not be removed.

Governments that still require Morse code testing for amateur radio licensing or HF access, far exceed those countries or governments that do not. In my opinion for the Commission to do away with the Morse code requirement would be a big mistake that would only damage amateur radio's future and its reputation of having certified, skilled, qualified, and competent operators.

The fact that lots of radio amateurs have taken and passed the Morse code examination requirement over the years for HF access and continue to pass it even now, indicates Morse code testing is not a hindrance, limiting, or preventing licensed amateurs from upgrading and does not prevent people from getting an amateur radio license either.

We the United States should not make our decisions based on what other governments are doing.
I say no to RM-10783.

Sincerely,

Victor Magana, N1VM